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OT 501 Survey of Biblical Hebrew

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OT501 – Survey of Biblical Hebrew – (3 hours)
 June 2003
 (T-F, 9:00-11:50AM)

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Please note that this syllabus is subject to revision by the professor.

A word about intensive language courses:

All language courses are demanding. Intensive term language courses are *especially demanding*. It is expected that you will spend 2-3 hours out of class for every hour that you spend in class. Considering that we are in class for 3 hours a day (four days a week) this means that you will be spending 9-12 a day (four days a week) in Hebrew study (counting in-class time). Please make an honest assessment of whether you can give the class this type of commitment. If you cannot, please reconsider taking this course in an intensive term. Falling behind in an intensive language course is like bungee jumping without attaching the cord to your ankle!

The upside to the intensive courses (yes, there is an upside, believe it or not!) is that you are able to focus your attention on a single subject with great intensity. You will be learning at an accelerated rate, which is an immensely rewarding experience. You will see growth and improvement of your skills in a matter of days, not weeks like a regular session course.

1. Course Description

This course introduces students to Biblical Hebrew for purposes of exegetical work in pastoral ministry. Particular emphasis is given to the fundamentals of Biblical Hebrew and basic exegetical tools, including types of parsing aids especially suited for pastoral use.

2. Course Objectives

Having successfully completed this course, students will be able to:

- 2.1. Analyze Biblical Hebrew words through the use of elementary phonology.
- 2.2. Determine the range of grammatical functions and choose the most appropriate one(s) by observing word formation (morphology).
- 2.3. Interpret the interrelations of Hebrew words (syntax).
- 2.4. Identify the use and significance of basic grammatical constructions.
- 2.5. Benefit from the use of standard lexical and reference grammars.

3. Course Requirements

- 3.1. A critical element of language study is attendance. Faithful attendance is expected.

3.2. Students will daily receive assignments (exercises from the textbook and worksheet handouts) to complete before the next session. Full completion of assignments is essential in order to obtain the learning goals of this course. Students should be prepared to discuss the assigned exercises by the beginning of following class period. The instructor will collect the assignments after each session. Feel free to collaborate with others on these assignments, but be sure that all work submitted is your own. Students may skip/drop one assignment (note: a single assignment, *not* a day's assignments).

3.3 In an intensive course, late work is simply not an option. **Late work will receive no credit unless special arrangements are made with the instructor.**

3.4 In the event of an emergency, it is the student's responsibility to notify the instructor as soon as possible. Absences or work submitted late will be considered unexcused if no notice is given.

3.5 There will be 13 quizzes during the term (see schedule below) and one exam. Most of the quizzes will be take-home, closed book, closed notes. A few quizzes will be in-class vocabulary quizzes. The take-home quizzes will include vocabulary, listed in Seow, as well as certain grammatical issues covered in class. Take-home quizzes are due the next class day. The lowest quiz will be dropped.

3.6. Final Exam will consist of two parts: 1) an in-class exam on **June 27th** and 2) an exegetical assignment due on **Monday, June 30th by 5PM**. Students with an average of 95% or higher prior to the final exam may elect not to take the in-class exam.

3.7 Asbury Seminary has a chapter of Eta Beta Rho (HBR or **rb**[]) a national Hebrew honor society. Students who earn a grade of "B" or higher in OT 501 & 502, and have taken, or intend to take a subsequent 700-level OT course will be eligible and encouraged to seek membership in the society.

4. Required Texts

4.1 Required texts [abbreviations in brackets, cf. **Course Outline** below]

Arnold, Bill T. and John H. Choi. *A Guide to Biblical Hebrew Syntax*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming. [Guide, Arnold & Choi]

Elliger, K., and W. Rudolph. *Biblia Hebraica Stuttgartensia*. Stuttgart: Deutsche Bibelgesellschaft, 1967-77. [BHS]

Holladay, William L. *A Concise Hebrew and Aramaic Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Grand Rapids, Mich.: Eerdmans, 1971. [HALOT]

Scott, William R. *A Simplified Guide to BHS*. Berkley, Calif.: BIBAL, 1987. [Scott]

Seow, C. L. *A Grammar for Biblical Hebrew*. Rev. ed. Nashville: Abingdon, 1995. [Seow]

4.2 Optional texts

Brown, Francis, S. R. Driver, and Charles A. Briggs. *A Hebrew and English Lexicon of the Old Testament*. Oxford: Oxford, 1907; reprint, Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 1979. [BDB]

- An acceptable substitute for Holladay above.
- The lexicon of choice for nearly 100 years. Still useful, though outdated in some respects.
- Arranges words by their root, instead of in strict alphabetical order (thus making it more difficult for the beginning student to use).

Chisholm, Robert. *From Exegesis to Exposition: A Practical Guide to Using Biblical Hebrew*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1998. [Chisholm]

- Designed as a 2nd year textbook.
- Helps the student to make the move from reading Biblical Hebrew to preaching, teaching, etc.

Long, Gary A. *Grammatical Concepts 101 for Biblical Hebrew*. Peabody, Mass.: Hendrickson, 2002.

- Introduces Hebrew concepts by first introducing the concept in English.
- Helpful for students who struggle with English.

4.3 Recommended software

BibleWorks 5.0. Hermeneutika, Big Fork, Mont. (available in the Media Center at ATS for those who do not purchase the software.)

- A powerful and flexible biblical language software program.
- Equipped with parsing tools.
- Includes lexicons and other resources.

Hebrew Tutor. Parsons Technology.

- A first year course in Biblical Hebrew with interactive features.
- Provides practice drills and exercises.
- Pronounces Hebrew words.

5. Student Evaluation

5.1. Exercises	15%
5.2. Worksheets	25%
5.3. Quizzes	30%
5.4. Final Examination & Exegetical Assignment	30%
5.3.1 In-class Examination (6/27/03)	10%
5.3.1.1. Vocabulary	3%
5.3.1.2. Concepts	4%
5.3.1.3. Translations	3%
5.3.2 Exegetical Assign. (Due 6/30/03)	20%
5.3.2.1. Grammatical Analysis	15%
5.3.2.2. Word/phrase Study	5%

6. Course Outline

Date	Topics	Quizzes*	Homework	Reading
June 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction ➤ The Alphabet ➤ The writing system ➤ Dagesh and begadkepat letters 			Seow, Lesson 1 <i>Guide</i> , 1.0

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to final assignment. ➤ Hand out <i>Concept Sheet</i>. 			
June 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Simple vowels, stress, and accents ➤ Vowel markers and the Sheva ➤ Syllabification 	Quiz #1 Due: Alphabet	- Seow, 1.b.c.	Seow, Lesson 2
June 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Nouns ➤ Word patterns (geminate, segolate, prefixed, etc.) ➤ Hebrew roots and patterns 	Quiz #2 Due: Lesson 2 Quiz #3: Vocab Quiz [2]	- Seow, 2.a(odd), b (odd).	Seow, Lessons 3-5 (skim 4&5) <i>Guide</i> , 2.0; 2.1; 2.1.1-2
June 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Introduction to Holladay and BDB Lexica ➤ Definite article ➤ Prepositions and simple conjunctions 	Quiz #4 Due: Lessons 3-5 [3 & 4]	- Seow 3a(even), b(odd), 4.a	Seow, Lesson 6 <i>Guide</i> , 2.6; 4.1.5, 9, 10; 4.3.3
June 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Adjective ➤ Reading Markers & Pausal Forms 	Quiz #5: Vocab [5 & 6]	- Seow 6.c(odd) - Prepositions Worksheet - HALOT Worksheet (nouns)	Seow, Lesson 7 Excursus B <i>Guide</i> , 2.5; 2.5.1-4 Scott, pp. 3-5; 25-27
June 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Qal participle ➤ Introduction to all the verbal derived stems in general ➤ Nomenclature for the Stems ➤ Uses of the Qal and Niphal 	Quiz #6 Due: Adjective [7]	- Seow 7.b(odd) - Adjective Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 8 Excursus C <i>Guide</i> , 3.0; 3.1; 3.1.1; 3.1.2; 3.4.3
June 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Independent Personal Pronouns ➤ Suffixed pronouns ➤ Uses of the Piel, Pual, Hithpael 	Quiz #7 Due: Binyanim [8]	- Seow, 8.d (odd) - Niphal Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 9 <i>Guide</i> , 3.1.3-5.
June 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Demonstratives ➤ Relative clauses ➤ Interrogative clauses, exclamations and emphatic questions ➤ Uses of the Hiphil, Hophal 	Quiz #8 Due: Pronoun & Participle [9]	- Seow, 9.d (odd) - Factitive Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 10 <i>Guide</i> , 3.1.6-7; 4.3.4
June 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Construct Chain ➤ The Superlative 	Quiz #9 Due: Demonstrative	- Seow, 10.b (#s TBA)	Seow, Lesson 11 & 12

	➤ Nouns with pronominal suffixes	[10]	- Causative Worksheet	<i>Guide</i> , 2.2; 2.2.1-13; (cf. 2.5.4 above).
June 18	➤ Introduction to “aspect” in the Hebrew verb ➤ The Qal perfect (forms & uses) ➤ Poetic Hebrew	Quiz #10 Due: Construct [11 & 12]	- Seow, 11.c & 12.c (#s TBA) - Genitive Relationship Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 13; Excursus E <i>Guide</i> , 3.2; 3.2.1.
June 19	➤ The Qal perfect of weak roots ➤ Stative verbs ➤ Orientation to the Hebrew Bible	Quiz #11 Due: Perfect Aspect [13]	- Seow, 13b (odd) - Perfect Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 14; Excursus F Scott, chps. 1 & 3.
June 20	➤ Imperfect aspect – forms and uses. ➤ Volitionals	Quiz #12 Due: Perfect Weak Roots [14]	- Seow, 14.c. (odd) - HALOT Worksheet (verb) - Parsing Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 18 <i>Guide</i> , 3.2.2; 3.3; 3.3.1, 3.3.3
June 24	➤ The Exegetical Process ➤ Word Study Methodology ➤ Text-Criticism & BHS ➤ Secondary Resources	Quiz #13 Due: Imperfect Aspect [18]	- Imperfect Worksheet - Read Article on Word Study (on reserve) and write summary	Chisholm, pp. 19-21; 187-191 (on reserve) Scott, 4.
June 25	➤ Preterite ➤ Waw-consecutives ➤ Narrative discourse patterns		- Word Study Worksheet - Translation Worksheet	Seow, Lesson 20 <i>Guide</i> , 3.5; 3.5.1-2
June 26	➤ Qal Infinitive Absolute ➤ Qal Infinitive Construct		- Preterites and Discourse patterns Worksheet	Seow, sections of chps 22 & 23 <i>Guide</i> , 3.4; 3.4.1-2
June 27	In-class Final.		- Infinitive Worksheet	

* Note that in-class quizzes are in bold. The numbers in brackets represent the lesson(s) in Seow from which vocabulary will be taken for the quiz.